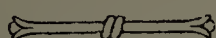


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WALSINGHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1950

to which is appended the

Report of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

and SURVEYOR

and the

Report of the

WATER ENGINEER

INDEX.*Page*

Index ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Staff ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Introduction ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Part I. General Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Section	1.	Staff	...	...	...	...	5
„	2.	Infectious and Contagious Diseases	...	...	...	...	5
„	3.	Cancer	...	...	...	...	6
„	4.	Sewerage	...	...	...	...	6
„	5.	Regional Sewerage Schemes	...	...	...	...	7
„	6.	Housing	...	...	...	...	7
„	7.	Water	...	...	...	...	7
„	8.	Regional Water Supply	...	...	...	...	7
„	9.	Wells	...	...	...	...	8
„	10.	Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	8
„	11.	Factories Act	...	...	...	...	8
„	12.	Shellfish	...	...	...	...	8
„	13.	Accidents in the Home	...	...	...	...	8
„	14.	Food Hygiene	...	...	...	...	8
„	15.	Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	9
„	16.	Conclusion	...	...	...	...	9

Part II. General Medical Information.

Section	1.	General	...	...	...	...	9
„	2.	East Anglian Regional Hospital Board	...	...	...	...	9
„	3.	Maternity Services	...	...	...	...	9
„	4.	Red Cross Medical Loan Depots	...	...	...	...	9
„	5.	County Medical Services	...	...	...	...	10
„	6.	Home Help Service	...	...	...	...	10
„	7.	Laboratory Services	...	...	...	...	10

Part III. Medical Statistics.

Table	1.	General Statistics	...	...	...	...	11
„	2.	Live Births	...	...	...	...	11
„	3.	Still Births	...	...	...	...	11
„	4.	Deaths (all ages)	...	...	...	...	11
„	5.	Infant Mortality	...	...	...	...	11
„	6.	Cause of Deaths of Infants under one year	...	...	...	...	12
„	7.	Cause of Total Deaths	...	...	...	...	12
„	8.	Deaths According to Ages	...	...	...	...	13
„	9.	Cancer	...	...	...	...	13

Part III.	Medical Statistics—continued.	Page
Table 10.	Summary of Births and Deaths	13
„ 11.	Summary of Vital Statistics	13
„ 12.	Births, Deaths and Infectious Diseases Statistics based on Quarterly Returns	14
„ 13.	Infectious Diseases	15
„ 14.	Measles and Whooping Cough	15
„ 15.	Tuberculosis (new cases 1950)	15
„ 16.	Tuberculosis (No. of cases on Register)... ..	15
„ 17.	Tuberculosis (new cases last five years)... ..	16
„ 18.	Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme	16

Part IV.	Report of Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.	
Section 1.	General	17
„ 2.	Record of Inspections	18
„ 3.	Public Health Acts	19
„ 4.	Housing Acts	20
„ 5.	Sewerage	20
„ 6.	District Scavenging	22
„ 7.	Water Supplies other than main supplies	23
„ 8.	Escape from Fire	23
„ 9.	Building Licensing	23
„ 10.	Building Byelaws Enforcement	24
„ 11.	Food Premises	24
„ 12.	Damage by Pests Act, 1949	25
„ 13.	Street Numbering	25

Part V.	Report of Water Engineer.	
Section 1.	Fakenham and Hempton Water Supply	25
„ 2.	Parish of Little Snoring	26
„ 3.	Parish of Blakeney	26
„ 4.	Present Situation	26
„ 5.	North Creake	26
„ 6.	Regional Water Scheme	26
„ 7.	Water Analyst's Report	26
„ 8.	Conclusion	26

Appendices.

Appendix “A”	Measles	27
„ “B”	Whooping Cough	27
„ “C”	Report on Water Sample	28
„ “D”	Certificate of Analysis of Water	29

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. C. JOHNSTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. EAGLE, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods,
Incorporated Sanitary Engineer.

District Water Engineer :

E. HAYMAN.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Deputy Surveyor :

W. E. RAMM, M.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. H. DOUGHTY, Cert. S.I.B. (from 20.2.50).

Clerical Assistant :

L. C. DAVEY.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

MISS M. HEWITT.

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Local Health Office,
The Rectory, Church Street,
Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This has been a busy year. The Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Water Engineer have made considerable progress in their own spheres. Housing still presents a major problem to the Department as a whole. Sewerage is another, and one which is most frustrating at present owing to the economic restrictions. Food Handling is getting under way although I am inclined to think that the Senior Sanitary Inspector is rather optimistic in his summary of this problem. Health Education has a definite place especially in this last subject, and I do not think it is as over-rated as the Senior Sanitary Inspector does.

The start of the Regional Water Scheme is a great move forward, as also the improvements in the Snoring Camp House connections.

On the Infectious Disease side we seem to have been fortunate in the major diseases as compared with the County. Tuberculosis is high this year, as was Measles and Whooping Cough, but all the others are low.

Vital Statistics show a higher birth rate for the District, and a slightly higher death rate than the rest of the Country as a whole. The Infant Mortality is also low. The fall in the percentage of children immunised is unfortunate, but it is hoped that this will soon increase again.

I would like to express my appreciation of the support given me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the constant sound advice and co-operation of the Clerk and the continued support and loyalty of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Water Engineer and Members of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be, Your obedient servant,

J. C. JOHNSTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Walsingham Rural District Council.

PART I

(General Report of the Medical Officer of Health).

1. STAFF.

(a) **General.** Mr. L. H. Doughty has completed his training, and has obtained his qualifications as Sanitary Inspector and continued his appointment as Assistant to the Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector. Mr. L. C. Davey has continued to be the Clerical Assistant.

Miss M. Hewitt has continued to be District Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health throughout 1950.

(b) **L.H.O. Transfer.** During March of this year, The Local Health Office was transferred from The Friends Hall to The Rectory, Wells.

2. INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

I am very pleased to be able to compare the Infectious Diseases for this year in this District with those of the County as a whole (Table 13). It is gratifying that proportionately the number of cases are lower in this area for all those quoted except Erysipelas.

(a) **Abortus Fever.** As a result of my Annual Report for last year, a request was made to the Council to make Undulant Fever a notifiable disease in this District. The Council decided to place the matter before the R.D.C's Association and I am still awaiting their report, as I believe the Norfolk Branch approved and has forwarded this to their Headquarters in London.

(b) **Tuberculosis.** The position regarding Tuberculosis has undoubtedly improved from the administrative point of view.

(i) I am now receiving, from the County Medical Officer, copies of all the Tuberculosis Health Visitors' Reports on each Household visited. These reports are of great value to me, as they give the employment, milk supply and a good indication of the housing conditions of patients and ~~does~~ help me to make some attempt to control the disease, as the list of contacts checked is also included. Unfortunately, subsequent reports are not available and so changes in the circumstances are not known for some time.

(ii) Notifications are also received of admissions and discharges to and from various sanatoria and the Senior Sanitary Inspector has been able to carry out the disinfection of infected premises.

During the year the following new cases were notified :—

		<i>Case Rate per 1,000 Population</i>		
19	Respiratory	...	...	1.06
5	Non-Respiratory	...	...	.28
Corresponding Figures for whole County—				
232	Respiratory	...	...	.64
91	Non-Respiratory	...	...	.25

The following cases were removed from the Register—

9 Respiratory. 2 Non-Respiratory.

It will be seen that despite this advance improvement, the case rate is higher for this area than for the County, and in fact, the number of cases notified is the highest for 5 years.

(c) **Measles and Whooping Cough.** There was a high incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough in the area this year, as the figures show, and constant complaints were received from the public that parents were not keeping their children in quarantine the proper length of time. In view of this, I put forward a proposed letter to the Council as shown in "Appendix A" and a similar letter regarding Whooping Cough as shown in "Appendix B." The Council approved these, and now a copy is sent to every parent of a child notified as suffering from one of these diseases.

(d) **Poliomyelitis.** During the year 3 cases of Poliomyelitis were notified. None had any special features although the last case notified in December seemed to have some connection with a case notified in January 1951.

3. **CANCER.**

During the year the incidence of deaths from Cancer was 36 compared with 34 in 1949 (See Part III).

4. **SEWERAGE.**

In February, I was asked to report on several Sewerage Schemes for Council Housing Estates :—

(a) **Hempton.** I was asked to investigate the Cesspool system at Hempton Housing Estate, and with reluctance, have agreed to this system being continued as a temporary measure for one year. It is not satisfactory and never can be.

(b) **West Raynham.** This again was a difficult problem. It would appear that the best solution would be to put a proper filter in Raynham Park. The Site selected by the Housing Committee could, if not properly maintained, constitute a Public Health nuisance.

(c) **Morston.** The position at the Morston Housing Estate has remained unchanged. At present some Public Health nuisance is being caused, and a new Sewerage Scheme would definitely solve the problem.

5. REGIONAL SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

(a) **Fakenham and Hempton.** The position here is still bad. The Hempton Cesspools are a great source of trouble and it is hoped that authority will soon be received to commence this scheme, particularly with regard to the Hempton Section. The danger of overflow near the pumping station in Fakenham still exists as also the potential nuisance at the Sewage Farm.

(b) **The Walsinghams.** The position here is unchanged although I hope work will comence in 1951.

(c) **Blakeney.** This scheme has been discussed with the Morston and Blakeney Parish Councils and I hope that the Council will be able to consider that this scheme should be given a high priority.

6. HOUSING—GENERAL.

(a) As a result of the Hobhouse Survey last year, a certain amount of work has been carried out in an endeavour to close unsuitable premises. A report of the general work carried out on housing is included in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) **Re-housing.** We have always tried to have at least one member of the Department present at the Tenant Selection Committee Meetings. The new points system initiated by the Council at the end of last year came into force this year, and has been a great help to this Department. I consider that this system does give a genuine picture of the needs of each family. Of 165 cases investigated and reported to the Council 73 have been rehoused, out of a total of 90 new houses, 31 transfer of tenancies and a numerous number of hutments.

7. WATER.

Included in the report of the Water Engineer are details regarding Lt. Snoring, it is satisfactory to note that each converted hut now has a water supply indoors.

8. REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY.

I am very pleased to report that the work for the Scheme started in May, 1950, and the contract works commenced in June, 1950.

9. WELLS.

The position regarding wells in the District is unchanged.

10. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

Quite a number of cases have been dealt with under these Regulations, which are now in force, principally for Abortus Infection in the milk.

11. FACTORIES ACT.

During the year 28 inspections were made and defects were found in 12 and, in these, 5 cases were remedied.

12. SHELLFISH.

The position is unchanged. I did carry out a small scale experiment during the year using flowing water in Wells Quay to cleanse Mussels. This was not at all successful probably due to the high contamination of the water in the Quay.

13. ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME.

The Local Voluntary Home Safety Committee has done considerable work during the year. The Committee has received assistance from the Council in that I was sent as a Delegate to the Annual Congress, and also, a film strip on Poisonous Berries has been purchased. This has been shown to a number of schools and has been highly commended by the Head Teachers concerned. Endeavours were made to get a poster printed on this subject, but unfortunately, owing to the high expense involved, this could not be done. In the latter part of the year, a stall was held at the Fair Week in Fakenham, and this was well attended.

Lectures, often accompanied by film strips, were given in the area by various members of the panel of lecturers. I believe that the work carried out by this Committee is of great value to the Community and hope it will be continued within this area during 1951.

14. FOOD HYGIENE.

The Model Byelaws have now become Byelaws in this area, and the Sanitary Inspector is surveying various Food Premises in order to see to what extent they have complied with these. This is a very large undertaking, and will take some time to complete.

15. ICE-CREAM.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector still maintains a close supervision of the sale of this commodity and it is pleasing to note that only one grade IV sample is recorded for this District.

16. CONCLUSION.

In all, a busy and productive year, but leaving much still to be done, and presenting several new problems.

PART II.

(General Medical Information).

1. GENERAL.

Following my remarks in last year's report, the Council made efforts with the Regional Hospital Board to get maternity beds in this area, but as yet, without any result.

Maternity beds are still the greatest need for this District.

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

(a) GENERAL. The list of Hospitals is unchanged.

3. MATERNITY SERVICES. DISTRICT NURSES.

During the year only one District Nurse left the area, namely, Nurse Baldwin, 47 Scarboro Road, Walsingham, and this vacancy has not yet been filled.

4. RED CROSS MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

During the year, the following new Medical Loan Depots were opened :—

(a) E. Barsham—Miss Hand, The Rectory, E. Barsham.

(b) Melton Constable—Mrs. Dyble, 4 Briston Road, Melton Constable.

(c) Field Dalling—Mrs. G. Ellis, The Cross, Field Dalling.

(d) Blakeney—Miss Page, 86 High Street, Blakeney.

5. (a) COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

On the 14th March, 1950, a Village Infant Welfare Centre was opened at West Raynham, which is now held in the Reading Room every 2nd Tuesday in each month.

(b) SCHOOL NURSES / HEALTH VISITORS.

Miss L. B. Steel, The Rectory, Gayton, for the following schools :—

Binham, Blakeney, Field Dalling, Holkham, Langham, Stiffkey and Wighton.

Mrs. Quayle, 1, The Drift, Heacham, for the remaining schools in the Walsingham area.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.

(i) Dr. G. F. Barran, T.B. Dispensary, King's Lynn Hospital.

(ii) Chest Clinic at Fakenham. (Held 3rd Monday each month).

6. HOME HELP SERVICE.

Home Helps are now available in the following parishes :—

E. Barsham	Hempton	Gt. Snoring	Stiffkey
Briston	Hindringham	Lt. Snoring	Swanton Novers
Fakenham	Melton Constable	Langham	Walsingham
Gunthorpe	West Raynham	Stibbard	Wiveton

7. LABORATORY SERVICES.

(a) Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, under the direction of Dr. L. M. Dowsett.

(b) Public Analyst. Dr. Eric Wood, PH.D., A.R.C.E., F.R.I.C., 6, Clarence Road, Norwich.

PART III. (Medical Statistics).

Table 1. General Statistics.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	88,818
Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	...	17,862
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£72,633
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£300

Table 2. Live Births.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...		163	160	323
Illegitimate	...		11	11	22
Total	...	...	174	171	345

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of
estimated Resident Population 19.32

Table 3. Still Births.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...		7	4	11
Illegitimate	...		—	—	—
Total	...	...	7	4	11

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of
estimated Resident Population62

Table 4. Deaths (all ages).

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
			112	115	227

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of
estimated Resident Population 12.71

Table 5. Infant Mortality. (Deaths of Infants under One Year)

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...		—	3	3
Illegitimate	...		—	—	—
Total	—	3	3

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 8.7

Table 6. Cause of Deaths of Infants under One Year.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
20. Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	1
30. Prematurity	2	—	2
Total	3	—	3

Table 7. Cause of Total Deaths.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	3	1	4
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	3	—	3
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	6	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	10	10	20
15. Leuckaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	18	27
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	17	4	21
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease ...	24	29	53
21. Other circulatory disease ...	7	3	10
22. Influenza	2	1	3
23. Pneumonia	—	2	2
24. Bronchitis	2	5	7
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	3	3	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	5	—	5
31. Congenital malformations...	1	2	3
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	13	15	28
34. All other accidents ...	3	2	5
Total	112	115	227

Table 8. Deaths according to Ages.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	3	3
1 and under	5	...	—	—	—	—
5	"	10	...	—	—	—
10	"	20	...	—	—	—
20	"	30	...	4	4	8
30	"	40	...	9	1	10
40	"	50	...	6	4	10
50	"	60	...	11	11	22
60	"	70	...	17	12	29
70	"	80	...	34	38	72
80	"	90	...	27	34	61
90	"	100	...	4	8	12
Total	...	...	112	115	227	

Table 9. Cancer.

The following table shows the incidence of cancer deaths during the past 5 years :—

			1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Males	...	...	17	20	16	6	16
Females	...	...	17	12	18	9	26
Total	...	...	34	32	34	15	42

Table 10. Summary of Births and Deaths Rates.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Live Births	18.2	22.7	19.4	17.55	19.32
Still Births	0.58	0.58	0.4	0.11	0.62
Crude Deaths	12.8	14.16	12.5	12.78	12.71
Infant Mortality	32.1	17.95	11.8	31.6	8.7

Table 11. Summary of Vital Statistics.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Population	18,250	17,160	17,550	17,990	17,862
Live Births	246	390	240	316	345
Still Births	8	10	7	2	11
Infant Mortality	8	7	4	10	3
Crude Deaths	203	246	219	220	227

Table 12. Births Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1950. Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

			<i>England and Wales.</i>	<i>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London</i>	<i>148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)</i>	<i>Walsingham Rural District Council.</i>
			Rates per 1000 Population.			
BIRTHS:						
Live	...	...	15.8	17.6	16.7	19.32
Still	...	...	.37	.45	.38	.62
DEATHS:						
All causes	...	...	11.6	12.3	11.6	12.71
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			.00	.00	.00	.00
Whooping Cough	...		.01	.01	.01	.00
Diphtheria	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	.36	.42	.33	.22
Influenza	...	...	.10	.09	.10	.17
Smallpox	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)			.02	.02	.02	.06
Pneumonia	...	...	.46	.49	.45	.11
NOTIFICATIONS:						
Typhoid Fever	...		.00	.00	.00	.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...		.01	.01	.01	.00
Meningococcal Infection			.03	.03	.02	.05
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.7
Whooping Cough	...		3.60	3.97	3.15	11.59
Diphtheria	...	...	.02	.03	.02	.00
Erysipelas	...	...	.17	.19	.16	.9
Smallpox	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Measles	...	...	8.39	8.76	8.36	25.23
Pneumonia	...	...	.7	.77	.61	.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)			.13	.12	.11	.17
Non-Paralytic	...	...	.05	.05	.06	.06
Paralytic	...	...	.00	.00	.00	.00
Food Poisoning	...		.17	.16	.14	.00
			per 1000 live births			
DEATHS:						
All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	29.8	33.8	29.4	8.7
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...		1.9	2.2	1.6	.00
NOTIFICATIONS:						
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	...	5.81	7.43	4.33	.00

Table 13. Infectious Diseases. (According to Age Group)

	<i>Under</i>														<i>County</i>
	<i>One</i>	<i>1-</i>	<i>2-</i>	<i>3-</i>	<i>4-</i>	<i>5-</i>	<i>10-</i>	<i>15-</i>	<i>20-</i>	<i>35-</i>	<i>45-</i>	<i>65-</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	5	8	—	8	3	2	4	—	—	—	30	508	
A. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	100	
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	10	—	—	13	223	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	10	—	2	—	16	61	
Meningococcal	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	
Total	—	—	5	9	1	9	6	7	14	10	2	—	63	905	

Table 14. Measles and Whooping Cough.

				1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Measles	...	...	...	82	144	118	7	451
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	45	32	82	11	209
Total	...	...	...	127	176	200	18	660

Table 15. Tuberculosis. (Details of New Cases during 1950)

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	—	—	1	—
5	—	1	1	—
15	—	3	—	—
25	2	2	—	1
35	2	3	1	—
45	3	1	—	—
55	1	1	—	—
65	—	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—
<hr/>				
Total	9	11	3	1
<hr/>				
Totals	20		4	
<hr/>				
Grand Total			24	

Table 16. Tuberculosis. (Number of Cases on T.B. Register ended 1950)

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	...	...	35	22	57
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	7	6	13
Total	...	...	42	28	70

Table 17. Tuberculosis. (Details of New Cases for last five years)

			1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Pulmonary	...	M.	5	8	6	6	9
	...	F.	6	7	8	3	11
Non-Pulmonary...		M.	2	3	1	0	3
	...	F.	2	3	1	1	1
Total	...		15	21	16	10	24

Table 18. Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

The following table shows the immunisation state of the children in Area No. 8, comprising Walsingham and Docking R.D.C.s and Hunstanton and Wells U.D.C.s for the year ended 31st December, 1950 :—

	<i>Under School Age</i>	<i>School Age</i>	<i>Total</i>
Numbers Immunised ...	1,826	4,631	6,451
Estimated Population ...	3,695	5,684	9,379
Percentage Immunised	48%	81%	69%

PART IV.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1950.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is my report for the year 1950.

1. GENERAL.

Compared with 1949 the year under review may be described as one of steady progress in the field of work encompassed by my office. Many of the improvements your Sanitary Officers hope for remain to be done, particularly the provision of sewerage in the larger parishes such as Blakeney and the Walsinghams, but those ideals have been brought nearer fruition by the substantial progress on the Regional Water Scheme under Mr. Hayman's guidance. The problem of rat killing has been tackled during the year, the Food Handling Byelaws have been confirmed and the District scavenging scheme has been extended to give a district wide service of both refuse and nightsoil collection.

The return of Mr. L. H. Doughty to the staff as a qualified Sanitary Inspector has brought the Department up to strength though it is difficult to say what is the necessary "strength" of a department dealing with such a widely scattered area as Walsingham. There always seems to be so much more work that should be done.

In my last report I expressed doubts about the grants-in-aid scheme for reconditioning allowed by the Housing Act 1949. These doubts, based upon the stringency of the conditions attached to the scheme, have proved well founded and only five applications were made in the year and to date (July 1951) only two have met with the approval of the Ministry.

The large amount of work under building byelaws and building licensing continues and accounts for nearly a quarter of the outside work and a great deal of administrative work in the office. The Duke of Westminster's Estate has submitted the majority of the plans and licence applications in connection with its rehabilitation work on the Melton Estate .

In September in connection with Fakenham Fair Week the Department staged an exhibition of the public health work of the Council. Plans of the projected sewerage schemes, the Regional Water Scheme and other charts were on view, drawing office, surveying and disinfestation apparatus were demonstrated. The

chief exhibit and one which drew much comment was the comparison of a Clean Shop and a Dirty Shop. When one visitor actually named the shop which had been used by me as a prototype of the Dirty Shop, I felt success had been achieved. I believe the value of this and similar propaganda is greatly overrated and I feel convinced that only actual inspections by qualified people followed by advice and/or enforcement of the law will bring about those desirable standards of hygiene in food premises and houses.

2. RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Initial Inspections	...	...	...	...	442
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	951
Schools Inspected	...	...	...	...	2
Means of escape from fire	...	...	...	...	10

COUNCIL BUILDINGS.

Maintenance Repair or Re-building	...	...	...	6
Supervision of Contract work, Inspections	...	...	...	17

DISTRICT SCAVENGING.

Visits	...	...	...	...	276
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	116

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases Investigated	...	...	...	...	44
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	57

SEWERAGE.

Inspections of Sewerage Systems and Plants (including Sewer Ditches)	...	...	...	244
Visits to Fakenham Pumping Station	...	...	...	50
Visits to Fakenham Sewage Farm	...	...	...	71
Visits to Housing Sites in connection with proposed Sewerage and Water Supplies	11

BUILDING LICENSING VISITS	66
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BUILDING BYE-LAWS INSPECTIONS	889
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FOOD PREMISES.

Premises Inspected	127
Visits <i>re</i> manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	18
Visits to Milk Producers' Premises and Dairies	...	...	...	24

HOUSING ACTS.

Housing Inspections	...	...	...	193
Re-visits in connection with above	...	...	...	125

FACTORIES ACT.

Inspection of Factories with power	...	...	24
Inspection of Factories without power	4

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Installations Inspected and Tested	8
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EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES.

Visits in connection with	13
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SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT.

Valuations	3
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Other Visits not classified under the Headings above
but made in connection therewith

...	...	245
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Total	4036
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NOTICES SERVED—INFORMAL NOTICES.

Public Health and Housing Acts	342
Food and Drugs Act and Food Bye-laws	9
Factories Act	10

Total	361
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FORMAL NOTICES SERVED.

Public Health Act	2
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3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Upon reading my early predecessors' reports I realize how few are the actual "nuisances" which we have to deal with today. Then it was common to report accumulation of filth and open sewers and overflowing privies as a daily occurrence, but fortunately our work under this heading is chiefly the detection of housing defects, private drainage work, dangerous buildings and so on. There still remains however a small but consistent number of families, "problem families" as the Council Housing people call them, who cannot be cured. In 1950 seven outstandingly bad cases presented themselves, three in Council property (and there are others being dealt with by the Housing Manager) and four in private houses. Legal proceedings in two courts were taken against one man living in undescribably filthy conditions and he voluntarily removed himself to Gressenhall. Another family was removed to a Council hutment which it promptly made almost as filthy as its previous residence; another case removed from the District. The powers of the Welfare Officer appear woefully deficient to deal with the case of the relatively fit person keeping himself in con-

ditions which cannot be cured by taking him to Court for the imposition of a fine.

A case taken to Holt Court against an agent for allowing a building to become dangerous, failed upon the difficult point of proving who receives the rent.

4. HOUSING ACTS.

Arising out of the Hobhouse Survey completed in 1949 over three hundred re-visits were made to domestic properties and notices served or re-served.

25 houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation and in 17 cases condemnation orders were made by the Council and undertakings not to relet or to carry out works were accepted in 8 cases.

The Rural Housing Sub-Committee was set up during the year and visited 25 properties represented as unfit by the Sanitary Inspector.

Under the Housing Act 1949 one application was made for the removal of demolition orders on four (now three) cottages following the execution of works since the orders were made. Successful proceedings were taken at the County Court and the Demolition Orders were rescinded. The operative period for such applications is, of course, now expired. An application for the removal of a demolition order and the substitution of a closing order for the building of alleged historical value was pending at the end of the year.

Applications for grants in aid of improvements to cottages numbered only five and of these one only had been successful in gaining Ministry sanction by the end of the year.

5. SEWERAGE.

The department controls comparatively modern sewerage systems at Fakenham, Melton Constable and Lt. Snoring. In these cases sewage is treated, in the first case by sedimentation tanks of about 30,000 gallons capacity, followed by broad irrigation over about fourteen acres of land, and at Snoring and Melton there is sedimentation followed by rotary filter beds and discharge of effluent to a stream.

At Blakeney, Lt. and Gt. Walsingham, Hempton, Gt. Ryburgh and West Raynham there are systems of ancient brick barrel and other sewers repaired and patched for many years past. In most cases crude sewage reaches these sewers and disposal is direct into the harbour at Blakeney, to the River Stiffkey at Walsingham and into ditches at Hempton and Gt. Ryburgh.

There are lengths of sewer in Briston, Field Dalling, Hindolvestone, Sculthorpe, Tatterford, Helhoughton and Stiffkey, usually surface water sewers with domestic drain connections made to them and these discharge into ditches which are cleansed by Council workmen.

The whole position is most unsatisfactory and it is only to be regretted that financial stringency does not permit even the outstanding case of the Walsingham scheme to be proceeded with.

Blakeney and **Hempton** are of equal urgency and Gt. Ryburgh, Stiffkey and Briston must be the subject of sewerage schemes as soon as finances permit. It is a subject for reflection that in 1950 the pail closet system is still in force in these comparatively large villages.

During the year I reported that Gt. Snoring village has the two requisites for a sewerage system, viz: a main water supply and a majority of the necessary sewers and works already constructed by the Air Ministry for the former R.A.F. Station. Without much great extension the whole parish could be sewered. The Council felt however that this proposal must take its place behind more urgent schemes for sewerage.

At **Melton Constable** a storm water overflow to the Burgh Beck has been constructed at a cost of £229 in an attempt to alleviate surcharging of the sewers into properties in that area and upon the main road at times of storm.

In September I made a comprehensive report to the Council upon the surcharging of the sewers in Hayes Lane, **Fakenham** and at the Nelson Road—Wells Road corner where considerable flooding occurs at times of storm. I demonstrated with plans the manner in which a great amount of sewage and surface water finds its way to this latter point coming from an area including Wells Road, Sculthorpe Road, Greenway (and the Council Estates there) Sandy Lane, Hayes Lane and Nelson Road. Undoubtedly the policy of connecting road gullies and roof and yard water gullies to the sewers when constructed in 1912 has brought about these circumstances. Since 1912 there has been greatly increased paving of roads, concreting of yards, with new roads and houses constructed together with the major factor of the installation of main water in 1938. This increased load on the sewers reflects itself at the **Pumping Station** and the **Sewage Farm**. At this latter place the year has seen a change of tenancy but difficulties of distribution have increased and it must be concluded that the area and method is now quite inadequate to deal with the amount of sewage to be treated. About 600 loads of earth from the Wells Road improvement were dumped into a

low portion of the tree belt at the farm. Thinning out of the trees was carried out by the contract.

Permission was gained to connect Nos. 39, 40 and 41 **West Raynham** to the new Council house sewer running behind the properties and this means that all the drains from houses around the Council houses are connected to a disposal works and one more filthy sewer ditch is eliminated.

At **Tattersett** the Air Ministry has agreed to the construction of sand filters to treat the effluent discharged from the Sculthorpe Airfield works into the dry bed of the River Tatt. The installation of this additional safeguard, which follows much correspondence and several reports by me to the Council in previous years, is awaited.

An inspection by a small technical Sub-Committee consisting of the Architect, Engineer, Medical Officer, Housing Officer and Surveyor to proposed Council Houses sites has been made at Sculthorpe, Wighton and Barney and brings home most strongly the fact that the usefulness or otherwise of a site depends entirely upon the ability of the technicians to get rid of the sewage and sullage water. Water can usually be brought to the site or be bored for, but if the fall or the absorptive powers of the ground is not suitable or there is no stream to take the treated effluent, the site is best abandoned.

6. DISTRICT SCAVENGING.

A weekly collection of refuse (except in a few small parishes where a fortnightly collection is made) occurs throughout the District. In June of this year the arrival of an Eagle-Morris cesspool emptier permitted the extension of the twice weekly nightsoil service to the whole district and the opportunity was taken of eliminating the Sunday night collection and collecting on five nights only. Labour for this work continued to be extremely difficult to find.

The Council continued to contract for the removal of refuse from **Sculthorpe Aerodrome** and I negotiated an increased contract sum backdated to February during the period. The outbreak of the Korea war in June caused considerable embarrassment to the scheme by the large increase of military personnel at Sculthorpe and by the end of the year the scavenging Sub-Committee was advised that the District Scheme could not continue the contract for a further year.

Controlled tipping occurs at Toftrees, Binham and Wighton and during the year it has been possible to close refuse tips at

Briston (the well-known Fakenham Road eyesore), Binham (filled after three years operation) and Briston (off Reepham Road). The Briston closure was made possible by revising the rounds to bring Briston and Melton refuse to Toftrees. After five years operation I am convinced that one central tip with the use of larger vehicles will be more economical and more satisfactory from the public health viewpoint.

Several hundred loads of cover were carted to Toftrees during the widening of Holt Road, Fakenham.

7. WATER SUPPLIES OTHER THAN MAIN SUPPLIES.

(a) **Emergency Water Supplies.** The effect of the 1949 drought was still being felt in 1950, but by the middle of the year the carting of drinking water by a contractor had been reduced to fifteen properties compared with seventy-six in the previous year. By September I recommended the Council should no longer give a free service to the remaining four properties and due notice was given to the owners to this effect.

(b) Sixty-three bacteriological and chemical samples were taken from shallow wells in the district and of these forty-one were reported as unsatisfactory. Twenty satisfactory samples were taken from the Fakenham and Hempton supply.

8. ESCAPE FROM FIRE.

During the year a number of visits were made in company with an officer of the Norfolk Fire Service to hotels and public Halls investigating the means of escape from fire. At the Central Cinema, Fakenham, the external steel fire escape asked for by the Council in 1948/9 was completed with certain modifications specified by me. This with the greatly improved internal staircase carried out in 1949 has rendered the balcony seats free from serious risk.

9. BUILDING LICENSING.

Three licences to erect private dwellings were issued in the year. On the repair and maintenance side the effect of the Duke of Westminster's Estate building programme has been strongly felt and by the end of the year the Council had made an application to the Ministry of Works for an increase in its licensing quota (to no effect).

Representations were made by the Council to the Ministry of Works for the issue of a licence for the re-building of the Salvation Army Hall, Fakenham, and by the end of the year a licence for £8,000 had been granted. Many of the visits made under this

heading have been counted as building byelaws visits since the applications are usually made when the plans are deposited. In all licences valued at £34,224 were issued under this heading.

10. BUILDING BYELAW ENFORCEMENT.

This branch of our work has greatly increased as witnessed by the figure of nearly nine hundred inspections this year compared with just over four hundred in 1949. Again the Westminster Estate has been the centre of activity and a fine co-operation between the Architects, builders and your technical officers has been reached and I can safely say that the construction going on complies with your Building Byelaws.

Some difficulty has been experienced over the stringent standard my staff has set for drainage and sewage disposal work and too often if a system has not properly functioned after a few months use the blame has too readily been laid at our door. I made a personal inspection of six installations constructed to comply with Council requirements and I am pleased to report that lack of proper maintenance and/or failure to follow your Surveyors' advice was proved to be the reason for failure in each case.

In all 242 plans have been presented to the Council in the year with the necessary recommendations as to their compliance or otherwise with the building byelaws.

11. FOOD PREMISES.

The Food Handling Byelaws were circularised to the occupiers of all food premises including public houses and an initial visit has been made to a number of these premises. The difficulty of enforcing for instance the necessity to wash hands before serving foodstuffs when there is no water tap and often no drain available may be imagined. Nor is it not encouraging to butchers, who are expected to take most strict precautions against allowing meat to become contaminated, to see the way in which that same commodity is handled in the street from the Ministry of Food vans. From our first observations and knowledge of conditions long before the byelaws were in force we believe that food is being served or sold under reasonable conditions in the area and the scarcity of complaints would seem to confirm this opinion.

The following food was condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the year:—

Meat	Home Killed Beef	...	46 lbs.
	Pork	... ..	1230 lbs.
	Imported or Canned	...	179 lbs.
Fish	...	...	242 lbs.
Other Foods	...	...	539 lbs.

12. DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

During the year the Council received reports by the Clerk and myself on this subject and by the end of the year a sub-committee had been set up which interviewed and appointed three suitable men for training as rat killers and had authorised the purchase of equipment (including a light van) and poisons. It is intended to have the men trained in accordance with Ministry of Agricultural and Fisheries standards at a Ministry course and by the Sanitary Inspectors. An agreed charge of 5/- per hour per operation is to be made for work at non-domestic premises, treatment at domestic properties will be free.

13. STREET NUMBERING.

Interviews with Parish Councils or representatives occurred at Hindringham, Briston and Hindolvestone and general agreement was reached upon the suggested street naming and numbering. Upon requests from Briston Parish Council for the provision of street name plates by the Rural Council however, the Council decided to defer the matter for six months (from June) on economy grounds.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. EAGLE,

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PART V.

Report of Water Engineer.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report on the Waterworks undertaking for the year ending 31st October, 1950:—

1. FAKENHAM AND HEMPTON WATER SUPPLY.

Water pumped during 1950 amounted to 27,950,000 gallons, a drop of 556,000 over 1949.

The number of premises connected to the piped supply is 1150, an increase of 34 during the past year. The 4-in. diameter main has been extended 100 yards at Lancaster Avenue.

2. PARISH OF LITTLE SNORING.

The Nissen Huts on the various R.A.F. Sites have now a water supply to each separate premises; all outside standpipes have been abolished.

3. PARISH OF BLAKENEY.

No further connections have been made to this piped supply. Delivery of 4-in. diameter pipes, as part of the regional water scheme, was made during September.

4. PRESENT SITUATION.

Owing to the lessened yield from the Fakenham well no water was supplied to West Raynham Air Station over a period of 3 months.

5. NORTH CREAKE.

This pumping station now supplies water to the British Field Products premises in addition to the reconstructed Nissen Huts and two farm premises.

6. REGIONAL WATER SCHEME.

Delivery of pipes for this scheme commenced on 9th May, 1950, and by the 31st October, 1950, pipes had been placed in dumps in the parishes of Great & Little Snoring, Great and Little Walsingham, Thursford, Barsham, Houghton St. Giles, Wighton and Fakenham.

The contract works commenced on June 5th and mains have been laid Little Snoring to Fakenham Waterworks, Little Snoring, Great Snoring and Thursford. Excavating at Gunthorpe Reservoir Site commenced October 12th, and constructional work started at Houghton Pumping Station on August 12th.

7. WATER ANALYST'S REPORT.

Regular bacteriological samples were taken from Fakenham and Hempton public water supply and all these were satisfactory, whilst samples submitted to the Public Analyst resulted as follows.

See attached Certificate.

8. CONCLUSION.

In concluding my report I may say that the supply has been maintained throughout the year with very few localised disruptions.

I am, Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

E. HAYMAN, District Water Engineer.

APPENDIX A.

Dear Madam,

MEASLES.

I have been notified that your child/children is/are suffering from Measles. This can be a serious condition and you are reminded that any children suffering from this disease must not be allowed to play with other children, but must be confined to your house and garden and not allowed in any public place or public vehicle for at least 14 days from the appearance of the rash or any longer period as directed by your family doctor.

May I also remind you that if there are any further cases in your household, it is your responsibility to see that I am notified, even if you do not think it necessary to call in your family doctor again.

While I hope for your natural co-operation in this matter, I must point out that these are legal requirements under the Public Health Act, 1936.

APPENDIX B.

Dear Madam,

WHOOPING COUGH.

I have been notified that your child/children is/are suffering from Whooping Cough. This can be a serious condition and you are reminded that any child suffering from this complaint must not be allowed to play with other children, but must be confined to your house and garden and not allowed in any public place or public vehicle for at least 28 days from the date of the characteristic cough or any longer period as directed by your family doctor.

May I also remind you that if there are any further cases in your household, it is your responsibility to see that I am notified, even if you do not think it necessary to call in your family doctor again.

While I hope for your natural co-operation in this matter, I must point out that these are legal requirements under the Public Health Act, 1936.

APPENDIX C.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICES.

Public Health Laboratory,
Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

WATER BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT.

Copy sent to M.O.H., Norfolk.

Sender: A. H. Eagle,
Baron's Hall, Fakenham.

Lab. Ref. No.: M. 1079.

Nature of Sample: Water from a bore 240 ft.—Little Snoring Main. Sample taken from taps on Rising Main—Little Snoring Waterworks.

Date and hour of collection: 11.10.50, 11-15 a.m.

Date and hour of arrival: 12.10.50.

Date and hour of examination: 12.10.50.

Probable number of coliform bacilli,
MacConkey 2 days, 37° C 0 per 100 ml.

Date of Report: 14th October, 1950.

This sample is highly satisfactory.

L. M. DOWSETT.

APPENDIX D.

W. Lincolne Sutton, F.R.I.C.,

Eric C. Wood Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,

Public Analyst.

Clarence House, 6, Clarence Road,

Norwich.

Norfolk & Suffolk County Laboratories.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample received from Walsingham R.D.C. No. 1574B.

Mark or Seal: 4.10.50. Fakenham Main Supply.

<i>Results of Analysis :</i>				<i>Grains per Gallon.</i>
Ammonia Free and Saline	...	...	...	Trace
Albuminoid	...	...	...	0.0007
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	2.5
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.30
Nitrites	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	...	...	...	Nil
Hardness	...	...	...	26°
Physical Characters	...	...	...	Clear

Remarks.

This water is of very good organic quality and free from any chemical signs of pollution. It is quite suitable for drinking and general purposes.

(Sgd.) ERIC C. WOOD.

